

Attorney's Docket No.: 10559-487001

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested. New claims and claim amendments are presented herein to obviate the current rejection. No new matter has been added.

Abstract

The abstract has been edited to delete the phrase "A method of forwarding a network packet is described" as requested.

Claim Objections

Various amendments have been made to the claims to correct grammatical errors and to provide proper antecedent bases for various elements. The suggestions in the office action are gratefully acknowledged. However, it is respectfully submitted that the proposals to claims 11, 15, and 23 are inconsistent with the specification which provides for encaps bytes to be prepended (see, inter alia, specification Fig. 6, reference 120).

35 USC §§ 102 / 103

Claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-13, 19-22, 24-26, and 28-31 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by

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Chaudhri. Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Chaudhri in view of Allen. Claim 27 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Chaudhri in view of Narad. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The indication that claims 11, 14-18, and 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims is gratefully acknowledged. In order to expedite the allowance of this application, claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 10, and claim 23 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 22. Moreover, claims 1, 19, and 28 have been amended to include features of similar scope to that of claim 11, and should be allowable for similar reasoning. Moreover, new claim 32, which includes means-plus-function features of similar scope to that of amended claim 1 should also be allowable.

It is respectfully submitted that this application should now be in condition for allowance.

#### Concluding Comments

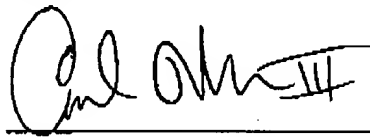
It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or

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concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Applicant asks that all claims be allowed. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,



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